Commission for recruitment to officers cadres in public sector banks, legislation was enacted. However, in the interest of economy and in the light of satisfactory functioning of the decentralised system of recruitment, actual setting up of the Banking Service Commission had been kept in abeyance. The Narsimhan Committee on the Financial Systems, inter alia, recommended that (i) instead of having a common recruitment system for officers, individual banks should be free to make their own recruitment; and, (ii) as regards clerical cadre, the present system of recruitment through Banking Service Recruitment Boards may continue. A Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri D.R. Mehta, Dy. Governor, Reserve Bank of India is at present looking into recruitment methods and practices in public sector banks. One of the terms of reference given to this Committee is to enquire into the need to revive or repeal the Banking Service Commission Act in the context of emerging trends in the Banking Industry. The report of the Committee has not yet been finalised.

Complaints about telecast/broadcast of indecent Hindi film songs

*6. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints/representations from social welfare associations and individuals regarding some indecent songs from Hindi feature films telecast by Doordarshan and broadcast by AIR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, complaints/representations of this nature are a regular feature since the reaction of listeners/viewers to the various programmes broadcast/telecast by All India Radio/Doordarshan vary widely. No details of such complaints/representations are, however, maintained centrally in a compiled form.

(c) AIR/Doordarshan constantly strive to bring about a qualitative improvement in their programmes in order to sustain the interest of the listeners/viewers.

World Bank/IMF Disappointment over Banking Sector Reforms

*7. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleasd to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the World Bank and IMF have expressed their disappointment with the pace of reforms in the country's banking sector and the World Bank has offered loan for reforming the banking sector;

(b) if so, what are the basic deficiencies pointed out by them in the reforms in the country's banking sector;

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) what exercise has been made by Government for reforming the financial sector in the country and what further measures are contemplated by Government in this direction based on the experience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No Sir. Since June 1991, the Government has initiated several measures for the reform of the financial sector based on its own perceptions and the recommendations of the Narasimhan Committee. Discussions have been held with the World Bank on a possible loan connected with financial sector reform. This matter remains under discussion.

(b) and (c) The basic deficiencies in the country's banking sector have already been pointed out by the Narasimhan Committee which has also made its recommendations on how to address

them. The Government propose to undertake reforms in this Sector in a phased manner based on these recommendations.

(d) The measure taken by Government for reforming the financial sector in the country include reduction of statutory liquidity and cash reserve requirements, development of Government securities market, rationalisation of the interest structure, strengthening of banking supervision and encouraging competion through entry of new private sector banks. The broad approach to further reform in this direction being considered by the Government are contained in Discussion Paper titled "Public Sector Commercial Banks and Financial Sector Reforms; Rebuilding for a Better Future", copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

S.T.D. Facilities in the Towns of Punjab

*8. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many towns has STD been provided in Punjab, how many towns are still without this facility and during the coming financial year, 1994-95, how many towns are proposed to be covered by STD in Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that at many places in Punjab where STD facility is provided the maturity rate is less than 20 per cent; if so, the causes thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (i) 87 towns have been provided with STD facility.

(ii) 33 towns are still to be provided with STD facility.

(iii) 5 towns are proposed to be connected with STD facility during this year, by March, 1994.

(iv) 18 towns are proposed for STD facility during 1994-95.

(b) yes, Sir. The causes are:—

(i) At some places local exchanges are non-electronic.

(ii) At some places number of STD circuits are inadequate to carry the traffic, because of shortage of transmission media.

(iii) TAX at Bhatinda is electromechanical type.

(iv) The STD circuits to some stations are working on overhead alignment & more fault prone.

(c) The steps taken to improve the service are:—

(i) Local exchanges of old technology are planned to be replaced by electronic.

(ii) Additional circuits are planned to be provided on congested STD routes by providing reliable transmission media.

(iii) TAX at Bhatinda is being replaced by electronic type.

(iv) Plans have been drawn to replace overhead alignment by reliable media.

Free Convertibility of Rupee Currency

*9. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how and why free convertibility of the rupee currency would further depreciate the rupee;

(b) what are the main features of free convertibility;

(c) whether Indian Industry, trade or international monetary agencies have suggested free convertibility of currency; and

(d) what are the advantages and disadvantages of conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY